

Sumida, R.F., B.M. Ito, and J.P. Draper

1985 Inventory and uses of vessels in Hawaii, 1984. (A non-technical version of the verification and classification of Hawaiian vessels). Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory.

Sumida et al. report on a mail survey cooperatively implemented by WESPAC, NMFS and HDAR to inventory vessels registered in Hawaii in 1984. The concise survey instrument was mailed to 12,578 owners over two mailings, with a total of 7,042 returned for a high mail survey response rate of 60.6 percent. The sampling frame omitted owners considered not likely to engage in fishing, including sailing vessels and various commercial vessels (p. 3).

The authors report (p. 4) that 72.1 percent of respondents used their vessels for fishing though they note that generalizing this statistic to the entire power boat population may be problematic in that 40 percent of that population did not respond to the survey. Some 60 percent of respondents moored their vessels at one of the six major ports of Ala Wai (15.3 percent), Keehi Lagoon (12.3 percent) Hawaii Kai (8.8 percent), Kaneohe (6.5 percent), Kailua-Honokahau (5.6 percent), and Waianae (5.2 percent). Some sixty percent of vessels were "trailerred and stored" at ten towns and cities, including Honolulu (18.5 percent), Kaneohe (10.7 percent), Kailua (5.4 percent), Hilo (5.2 percent), Pearl City (4.0), Waianae (3.3 percent), Aiea (3.1 percent), Kailua-Kona (3.1 percent), Waipahu (2.7 percent), and Kahului (1.9 percent).

Very few respondents (1.4 percent) reported using their vessels for charter fishing, and few (26.1 percent) of those who reported using their boats to fish also reported selling *any* of their catch. Thus, 70.2 percent of those respondents using their vessels to fish reported they *do not* sell any of their catch. Of persons selling catch, only 16.1 percent reported selling more than half, a fact interpreted by the authors to mean that "most are not truly commercial fishermen, since they sell less than half their catch" (p. 6). Only 2.9 percent of respondents reported earning more than half their gross income from fishing, and only 11 percent of respondents reported belonging to sport fishing clubs.

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With respect to level of fishing activity across the sample, most respondents reported fishing between one and five days per month, with less activity in non-summer months. Most (48.8 percent) fished within three miles from land, but 42.8 percent fished farther offshore. Four fishing methods accounted for more than 50 percent of those reported: trolling accounted for 18.8 percent of methods, shallow handline for 13.6 percent, casting and spinning with rod and reel for 13.3 percent, and spearfishing for 9.1 percent. Most respondents (63.4 percent) reported they did not fish around FADs despite the author's contention that "public support of [their] deployment . . . has been quite strong" (p. 11).